

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of billing a telephone call made through a network that utilizes a modem, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a user of the network to place a telephone call through the modem;

receiving user identifying information to authenticate the request as coming from a valid user of the network;

correlating the user identifying information with billing information associated with the user; and

forwarding call charge information from a public telephony network so that the user is billed for the call.

2. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the correlating step comprises the step of searching a database comprising records of user identifying data for all valid users of the network.

3. The method recited in claim 2, wherein the searching step comprises the step of comparing the user identifying information received to the billing information associated with the user, and authenticating the user when the user's user identifying data matches the billing information.

4. The method recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of passing the telephone call through the network if the user identifying information received is authenticated.

5. The method recited in claim 4 wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

6. A method of processing a request to place a telephone call through a network that utilizes a modem pool, comprising the steps of:

receiving user identifying information associated with a user that has placed a telephone call through the network;

searching a database containing information related to users of the network to correlate the user identifying information with the user and authenticate the user as a valid user of the network;

forwarding call charge information from a public telephony network so that the user is billed for the call; and

passing the telephone call through the network if the user identifying information has been correlated to the user and the user has been authenticated as a valid user of the network.

7. The method recited in claim 6, wherein the searching step further comprises the step of comparing the user identifying information with records of billing information stored in the database.

8. The method recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of billing the user for the telephone call when the user has been authenticated as a valid user of the network.

9. The method recited in claim 8, wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

1 10. A network that utilizes a modem for processing calls made through the
2 network, comprising:

3 a server for receiving user identifying information associated with a user
4 that has placed a telephone call through the network;

5 a search module for searching a database containing information related to
6 users of the network and for correlating the user identifying information with the user to
7 authenticate the user as a valid user of the network such that when the user has been
8 authenticated as a valid user of the network, the telephone call is passed through the
9 network; and

10 a billing aggregator module, which aggregates charge call information
11 received from a public telephony network and the user identifying information so that the
12 user is billed for the call.

1 11. The network recited in claim 10, further comprising a correlating module
2 for comparing the user identifying information with records of user billing information
3 stored in the database.

1 12. The network recited in claim 11, further comprising a billing module in
2 communication with the correlating module for billing the user for the telephone call
3 when the user has been authenticated as a valid user of the network.

1 13. The method recited in claim 12, wherein the network comprises a wireless
2 network.